

April 20, 1999
Fountain Valley, CA. 92708

1 2 7 4 '99 APR 27 P1 55

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management, FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

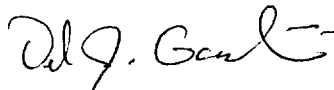
Dear Mr. Jaffe,

I recently read an article detailing the forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP) and I am totally disgusted and appalled. I am not a vegetarian at this point – but after seeing and reading the terrible conditions that these animals go through I am seriously considering it. Research shows that forced molting is a MAJOR cause of salmonella poisoning in eggs. The stressful conditions weaken the birds' immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease, bone breakage and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs that are passed on to the American public.

These birds already go through enough misery without performing one more act of cruelty on them. Cramming five or more into small cages, slicing off their beaks so they won't peck each other, never letting them see the light of day – these are all terrible, terrible atrocities. This attempt to force one last laying cycle out of the exhausted spent hens before sending them to slaughter is the last straw.

PLEASE do something to ban this practice! I am sure the American people would be willing to pay more for eggs to offset the reduced egg production.

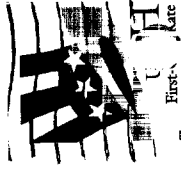
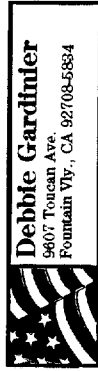
Respectfully,



Debbie Gardinier
9607 Toucan Ave.
Fountain Valley, CA. 92708

98P-0203

C 1189



Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management, FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., Room I-23
Rockville, MD 20857

